United Nations S/2011/708

Security Council

Distr.: General
14 November 2011

Original: English

Letter dated 11 November 2011 from the Acting Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

With reference to the letter dated 4 November 2011 (S/2011/691) from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Sudan addressed to and conveyed through you to the Security Council, in which a number of serious allegations have been made against the Government of the Republic of South Sudan, I wish to communicate to you and to the esteemed members of the Security Council the following:

1. The Government of the Republic of South Sudan categorically rejects all claims that it is "harbouring, backing and supporting" opposition forces fighting the Government of the Sudan in Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan States, as utterly baseless and malicious. The climatic conditions at this time of the year are such that the terrain between the Republic of South Sudan and the Republic of the Sudan is virtually impassable. This means that it is not feasible to ferry personnel, tanks, vehicles and other military equipment across the border into the Republic of the Sudan.

2. The distance between Yafta in the Republic of South Sudan and Wadaga in the Republic of the Sudan is a mere 12 miles; therefore, airlifting "artillery crews" across the border from Yafta to Wadaga, as suggested by the Government of the Republic of the Sudan, does not appear to be a rational course of action.

3. The claim that "rebels" fleeing from "the Sali area in the Blue Nile State have been received and hosted" by the Government of the Republic of South Sudan in Renk town is totally unfounded. Persons who have fled the scene of fighting in the adjacent areas of the Republic of the Sudan to seek safety in Renk are all civilians. These persons, who number approximately 1,000, are legitimate refugees escaping armed conflict and as such are entitled to protection and humanitarian assistance. As a result, we call upon the international community to immediately come to their aid.

4. The false accusations being levelled by the Government of the Republic of the Sudan against the Government of the Republic of South Sudan are nothing more than a smokescreen to mask Khartoum's own activities in support of the armed dissident groups that are fighting a proxy war against the Government of the Republic of South Sudan. We are greatly alarmed by the exceedingly bellicose attitude that the leadership of the Republic of the Sudan has been displaying lately towards the Republic of South Sudan. The many remarks by the leadership of the

Please recycle

Republic of the Sudan which tacitly suggest that Khartoum may decide to militarily reoccupy the Republic of South Sudan are a cause for concern. We call upon the international community to dissuade Khartoum from issuing threats against the Republic of South Sudan, whether explicitly or implicitly.

5. The Government of the Sudan refuses to demarcate the border between the two States as per the agreed upon 1 January 1956 borderline and further remains resolutely opposed to any process that would lead to a peaceful resolution of the dispute over a number of contested border areas. This stance, coupled with Khartoum's illegal occupation of Abyei in May 2011, creates the disturbing impression that the Government of the Republic of the Sudan may have opted to demarcate the border and determine the status of contested border zones by military means. These disagreements represent a potential threat to international peace and security. The Government of the Republic of South Sudan therefore exhorts the Security Council to take measures to ensure that:

(a) The common border between the Republic of South Sudan and the Republic of the Sudan is demarcated without any further delay;

(b) The dispute between the two States over a number of contested border areas is resolved peacefully through a legally binding international dispute resolution mechanism.

I would appreciate it if this response of the Government of the Republic of South Sudan could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) David Buom **Choat**
Acting Permanent Representative